

Message Text

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ORIGIN SY-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

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RSS KNAUF FROM ST. MARS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: SECURITY PROGRAM CHANGES EAST ASIAN AREA

REF: HONG KONG 01886

1. APPRECIATE RSS INTEREST IN PROPOSED PROGRAM/PERSONNEL CHANGES IN EA AREA, AND REGRET THAT ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL NOT PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED. HOWEVER, SINCE, EXCEPT FOR TOKYO, QUESTION CONCERNING POSTS TO WHICH TSOS WILL BE RE-LOCATED REMAINS UNRESOLVED, WE HAVE AVOIDED PROMPTING UNNECESSARY SPECULATION UNTIL POSTS INVOLVED HAVE BEEN QUERIED AND CONCURRENCES OBTAINED. IN THIS CONNECTION, EA/EX HAS IN PREPARATION A CABLE TO MANILA, BANGKOK, JAKARTA AND INFO HONG KONG, PROPOSING TSO/CB ASSIGNMENTS. SINCE, FOR REASONS CITED BY RSS IN REFTEL, IT APPEARS UNLIKELY - PERHAPS EVEN UNDESIRABLE - THAT JAKARTA WILL CONCUR IN ASSIGNMENT OF TSO AND SEABEE TO THAT POST, AND SINCE K.L. AND SINGAPORE REPORTEDLY FACED WITH SIMILAR CRAMPED SPACE CONDITIONS, UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE FOLLOWING: HONG KONG TO RETAIN ONE (1) TSO AND ONE (1) SEABEE; ONE (1) TSO AND ONE (1) SEABEE TO BANGKOK; AND ONE (1) TSO AND

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ONE (1) SEABEE TO MANILA. TOKYO TO RECEIVE FOURTH TSO

POSITION. IF THIS PROPOSAL MATERIALIZES, HONG KONG WOULD REMAIN HUB POST DUE TO BAGNAL'S SENIOR TSO RESPONSIBILITIES,

BUT SUPPLIES WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED PROPORTIONATELY TO SATELLITE TSO OFFICES, THUS ELIMINATING LARGE STORAGE SPACE REQUIREMENTS NOW DEMANDED IN HONG KONG. IN THIS REGARD, SY/T ADVISES THAT LARGE SHIPMENTS RECENTLY RECEIVED BY RTC, HONG KONG, REPRESENT REMAINDER FY-75 PURCHASES; THAT EXCEPT FOR SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED ITEMS WHICH WILL BE POUCHED, NO ADDITIONAL LARGE SHIPMENTS WILL BE MADE TO HONG KONG.

2. ANSWERS TO OTHER QUESTIONS RAISED BY RSS IN REFTTEL FOLLOW:

A) NO. 2 RSO POSITION IN BANGKOK WILL BE ENCUMBERED. YOUNG OFFICER FROM DOMESTIC FIELD BEING SELECTED AND SHOULD ARRIVE ON POST IN EARLY SUMMER 76 FOLLOWING RSO TRAINING.

B) IF PROPOSED TSO AND SEABEE TRANSFERS TO MANILA MATERIALIZE, POST WILL HAVE ADVANTAGE OF ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SECURITY COVERAGE, EVEN THOUGH TECHNICAL PERSONNEL WILL HAVE AREA RESPONSIBILITIES. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS AND ASSUMING NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN SECURITY PROBLEMS MANILA, WE WONDER WHETHER SECOND FULL-TIME RSO POSITION THAT POST REQUIRED. SINCE NO UNCOMMITTED POSITIONS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, WE WOULD PREFER DEFER ON SECOND RSO POSITION MANILA UNTIL EXPERIENCE FOLLOWING TSO/SEABEE ARRIVAL CLEARLY IDENTIFIES NEED FOR SAME.

C) ALTHOUGH OFFICER HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED, SY HAS REQUESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF RSO POSITION WELLINGTON WHICH WILL BE ENCUMBERED SUMMER 76.

D) SY CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING IDENTIFY SUITABLE REPLACEMENT FOR RSO O'BRIEN, VIENTIANE. AS RECOMMENDED, AT LEAST SOME GSO TRAINING WILL BE GIVEN TO OFFICER SELECTED PRIOR TO TRANSFER.

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E) RSO ALGIRE TO RETURN TO DEPARTMENT FOR ASSIGNMENT SY/SAS DURING SUMMER 76. RSO DROTOS TO REMAIN JAKARTA AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR.

3. REGARDS. KISSINGER

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